

REMARKS

In the above Office Action, restriction to one of the following three (3) inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. §121:

I. Claims 1-5, drawn to a composition, classified in class 526, subclass 346;

II. Claims 6 – 51, drawn to a method of catalyst immobilization, classified in class 427, subclass 304; and

III. Claims 52 – 56 drawn to a coated substrate, classified in class 428, subclass 209.

The Action contends that the inventions are unrelated, and that the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art because of their divergent subject matter. As such, the Action states that the inventions are distinct and restriction is required.

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement because the action fails to meet the criteria for restriction.

Under MPEP § 803, there are two requirements for restriction between patentably distinct inventions.

(A) The inventions must be independent or distinct; and

(B) There must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is required. Moreover, the Examiner must provide reasons and/or examples to support conclusions for the restriction.

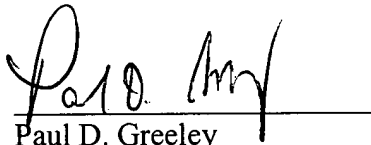
In this case, the inventions have commonality in that they all are directed to catalyzed ligation or immobilization. As such, they are related and there would not be a serious burden on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to examine the claims together. Therefore, in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

However, to comply with the restriction requirement, Applicants elect, with traverse, invention II, claims 6-51 drawn to a method of catalyst immobilization.

An early examination and indication of the allowability of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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